

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

NSC-05 IO-13 OMB-01 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7258

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, US, NATO

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER REAFFIRMS GOI DEFENSE TIES

REF: REYKJAVIK 590

1. SPEAKING IN GENERAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE APRIL 28, PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON REAFFIRMED GOI'S COMMITMENT TO NATO MEMBERSHIP AND DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH US.

2. PRIMEMIN SAID, ACCORDING TO TEXT PUBLISHED OVER WEEKEND:

"THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON SECURITY MATTERS. IN THE GOVERNMENT PLATFORM IT STATES: 'SECURITY OF THE NATION SHALL BE INSURED THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. THERE SHALL BE SPECIAL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AS LONG AS THERE FUNCTIONS HERE A DEFENSE AND SURVEILLANCE BASE ON BEHALF OF NATO.' THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONFIRMED THE CONTINUING OPERATION OF THE BASE WITH REVIEW OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. PRIOR TO THE ELECTION OF 1974 THERE WAS DETAILED DISCUSSION OF ICELAND'S SECURITY SITUATION WHICH AWAKENED NATIONAL INTEREST IN THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE COUNTRY. IT IS NECESSARY THAT THIS QUESTION BE UNDER CONTINUING DISCUSSION AND THAT CLOSE ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPMENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. NOTHING IS

MORE IMPORTANT TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY OR ITS PEOPLE THAN INSURING SECURITY TO THE UTMOST EXTENT."

3. COMMENT: PRIMEMIN'S STATEMENT REFLECTED HIS WELL-KNOWN VIEWS WHICH CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH THOSE OF FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON LAST WEEK (REFTEL). IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT PRIMEMIN SHARPENED FOCUS OF HIS STATEMENT WITH FONMIN'S COMMENTS IN MIND, AND IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT HE WELCOMED TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE ANY CONFUSION AS TO GOI POLICY ON BASE THAT AGUSTSSON'S COMMENTS MAY HAVE ENGENDERED. NOTWITHSTANDING PRIME MINISTER'S EXPECTED PUBLIC REASSURANCE RE GOI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESENCE OF NATO FORCE, WE BELIEVE IT WAS USEFUL TO TAKE UP FONMIN'S REMARKS WITH HIM ON MAY 3. (REYKJAVIK 0616).
BLAKE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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